

Attorney Docket No. 5577-257
Application Serial No. 10/616,361
Filed: July 9, 2003
Page 6

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Official Action dated February 9, 2007 (the Action). Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 4-12, 15-16 and 19 are allowed.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,404 to Carlton. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims to cancel Claim 20. Such amendments are made without prejudice to Applicant's right to file a continuation and/or divisional application directed to the previously presented claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that pending Claims 1, 4-12, 15-16 and 19 are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Action.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

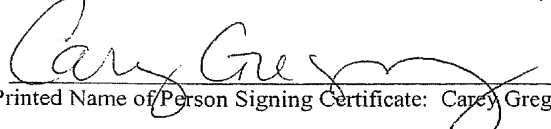


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 28, 2007.

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